ARTICLES TO BE ENQVIRED OF IN THE THIRD VISITATION OF THE RIGHT

Reverend Father in God, GODFREY, Goodman
LORD Bishop of *Glouc̃ester*,
holden *Anno* 1631.

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THe Minister and Church-wardens are to call vnto them the Neighbours of the Parish, and out of them to make choyce (according to the Custome of the place,) of two of the discreetest Parishioners, to be Side-men; & they altogether are to reade ouer these Articles diuers times.

Then, after they haue duly considered of them, they are to write their Answer or Presentment vnto every Artiele particularly and truly, according to their consciences.

Lastly, they are all of them to bring their Presentments to the Visitation, and there the Church-wardens and Side-men vpon their Oathes, but the Minister according to the Canon in that behalfe, are to deliver them vp vnder their hands.

The Oath ministred to the Church-wardens and Sworne-men.

YOu shall sweare, that all Affection, Fauour, Hatred, Hope of Reward & Gaine, or feare of Displeasure, or malice set aside: You shall vpon due consideration of the Articles giuen you in charge, present all and every such person, of, or within your Parish, as hath committed any offence or fault, or made any default mentioned in these, or any of these Articles. Or which are vehemently suspected and defamed of any such offence, or default: wherein you shall deliver vprightly, and according to truth; neither of malice presenting any contrary to truth, nor of corrupt affection, sparing to present any, and so conceale the truth: Having in this action, God before your eyes, with an earnest zeale to maintaine truth, and to suppresse vice: So helpe you God, and the Contents of this Booke.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THAT every Incumbent or Curate, indeavour (as far forth as he can) especially in Market Townes, to reade short Morning prayers at six a clock, before men goe to their labours. Secondly, that Preachers doe not intend so much, either long preaching, or often preaching, as painefull and profitable preaching. Thirdly, considering the miserable distractions of the Church, that they doe not labour to nourish and increase controversies in Religion, but rather to reconcile them; and to this end, that they interpret all things to the best on every side, that in their Prayers they vse these, or words to the like effect; Grant, O Lord that all they that doe professe thy holy name, may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and liue in vnitie, and Godly loue: and that they instruct their Auditors in poynts of devotion, pietie, charity, mortification, and such like necessary Principles and Articles of our Faith, wherein all Christians agree; rather then in the niceties, curiosities, and subtilties of Schoole-learning, wherein the differences doe most consist, and whereof the people are not so capable.

2 That the Incumbent and Church-wardens doe instantly present, what land belongs to their Church, and what Vtensiles, and in whose hands and custody they are: and when any man is presented for a crime, if within fiue or six Court-dayes after his presentment, the partie bee not put to some open punishment in the same Parish, where the offence was committed; then it may be supposed, that he hath made a commutation; which, as it is wholy to be imployed in charitable workes, so my Lord Bishop is resolved,

that

that hereafter it shall be bestowed in setting poore people on worke, wherein my Lord will vse the helpe of the Incumbent, the Church-wardens, and some other of the Parish, who, sometimes taking the advice and direction of the next Iustice of peace, may see it imployed to that purpose; & therefore my Lord desires them to be carefull, as in presenting the crime, so in calling for the commutation.

3 *That every Incumbent haue a speciall care to be well prouided with such armour, as his predecessors haue formerly found, and that hee be ready to shew it vpon any short warning; that he pay such accustomed fees to the Muster-master, as heretofore hee hath done; and if there should be any difference, in paying procurations, that then he bring forth his former acquittances, that so his payments may be accordingly.*

4 *If any officers of the spirituall Court, whether Chancellor, Archdeacon, Register, Proctors, Apparitors, haue increased their fees, or otherwise abused either Cleargie or Laitie, in the execution of their office, vpon complaint made, the offence shall be punished, and a course taken hereafter for their amendment.*

5 *When any Parish shall receiue either Briefes or Bookes by command of superiours, the monies for the price of them are to bee payd into the Registers office, and the messengers according to their paines shall bee rewarded vnlesse the Deanes in their Deaneries be imployed, and then all to be left to their discretions.*

6 *This Article, especially every Incumbent and Churchwardens are to present; the presentments to be reserued for my Lords owne hands; Whether haue you knowne any thing innovated in Gods seruice, either omitted which heretofore hath beene done; or done, which hath not beene heretofore? Haue you obserued any thing vsuall in other Parishes which is not in yours? &c.*

7 *My Lords late Subcollector of Tenthes and Subsidies is dead, hee desires the Clergie that they would ever inquire at the Registers office who is the Subcollector, and to pay it to him who shall bee thereunto Authorised vnder my Lords Episcopall Seale, and in regard of my Lords living out of the Cittie, the Subcollector shall not faile to attend at the Pallace in* Gloucester, *every Satterday being Market-day for receiving the Tenths and Subsidies; And whereas the Subcollectors heretofore haue*

complained, and haue made it appeare to my Lord, that in regard of the Negligence of some Clergie men, they haue bin put to the charge of Twenty Markes per annum, My Lord doth earnestly request all the Clergie, that hereafter they would be more carefull to pay in their Tenths and Subsidies in due time, which if they shall neglect, that then they would not bee offended if my Lord suffer his Subcollector to take the benefit of sequestration, thereby to make himselfe some recompence for that charge, which befalls him through their default.

ARTICLES

Articles concerning Miniſters, diuine Seruice, and adminiſtration of the Sacraments.

IN primis, Whether doth your Miniſter diuidly catechize the youth, and ignorant perſons in your Pariſh, or otherwiſe read Homilies: and haue you prayers duly ſaid in your Churches, on Sundayes and Holy-dayes: as likewiſe on Wednesdayes and Fridayes, and Euening prayers on Saturdayes: and how oft hath your Miniſter beene negligent herein? 12

2 Item, Whether hath your Miniſter read the Conſtitutions ſet forth by his Maieſtie, once every yeare vpon ſome Sunday or holyday in the afternoone, before diuine Seruice, as he is bound? 1

3 Item, Whether doth your Miniſter adminiſter the holy Communion ſo often, and at ſuch times, as that every Pariſhioner may receiue the ſame at leaſt thrice in euery yeare, whereof once at Eaſter, as by the booke of common prayer is appointed? 13

4 Item, Whether hath your Miniſter admitted to the Communion, any notorious offenders or Schiſmaticks, contrary to the 26 and 27 Conſtitutions? 15

5 Item, Whether doth your Miniſter adminiſter the holy Communion to any of his pariſh out of the Church, and in ſome priuate howſe, the 16

partie

party receiuing not being hindred by sickness, or infirmity of body from coming to Church to receaue there?

6 Item, Whether hath your Minister referred or wilfully refused to baptize any Infant in his Parish being in danger, hauing beene onely informed of the weaknesse thereof: and whether the child hath dyed in his default without Baptisme?

7 Item, Whether doth your Minister vse, or hath he refused to visit the sicke in your Parish, to pray with them, or to administer the Lords Supper vnto them: and hath he at any time refused or neglected to bury the dead, hauing beene required thereunto?

8 Item, Whether is your Minister continually resident with you vpon his Benefice: or for how long time hath he beene absent, and where is he resident for the most part, and what other Benefice hath he?

9 Item, Whether doth your Minister preach vsually, according to the Constitutions: or how often hath he beene negligent in that behalfe?

10 Item, Whether hath your Minister any other Benefices, and whether doth he supply his absence by a Curat: whether is your Curat licensed to serue by the Lord Bishop of the Diocesse, and whether doth hee serue any more Cures then one, what other Cure doth he serue, and how farre are they distant one from the other? and whether hath your Curat any Benefice, or cure of soules besides your Cure?

11 Item, Whether doth your Parson, Vicar, or Lecturer, read diuine Seruice, and administer the Sacraments in his owne person twice euery yeere, obseruing all the Ceremonies in the Book of Common Prayer established according to the 56 Canon?

12 Item, Whether haue you knowne or heard of any that haue beene married in a priuate house, or without licence from the Court of Faculties or from the Arch-bishop, or the Bishop of the Diocesse, or his Chancellor, or the Banes not being three seuerall Sundayes or Holydayes first published in time of diuine Seruice, in the seuerall Churches or Chappells of their seuerall abodes according to the Booke of Common Prayer, or without Licence in time prohibited, albeit the banes were so published: or at any time, except betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone?

13 Item, Whether hath your Minister married any of another Diocesse, or hath any of your Parish beene married in another Diocesse, if any haue

haue beene so married, or licensed to marrie by any authority other then aforesaid, you shall present the Minister so marrying, the parties so married, and the Authoritie whereby this was done?

14 Item, Whether doth your Minister or Curat ioyne any in marriage before or after the time limmitted and appointed by the Canon viz. before eight of the clocke in the morning and after twelue at noone?

15 Item Whether doth your Minister vse the Administration of the holy Communion, Baptisme, instruction of children, solemnization of marriage, visitation of the sicke, buriall of the dead, the Commination and churching of women vnder such words, rites, and ceremonies as are sett forth and prescribed by the booke of common prayer and none other? 22

16 Item, Whether doth your Minister every sixe moneths, denounce in his Parish all such as stand contumacious vnder the sentence of Excommunication, not seeking to be absolued: and whether hath he said diuine seruice while any Excommunicate person hath beene present in the Church: or hath admitted any person excommunicate into the Church, without a Certificate of his absolution from the Ordinary, or other competent Iudge? 25

17 Item, Whether doth your Minister vse such decency and comelines in his apparell, as by the 74 Constitution is enioyned him: and is he of sober behauiour, and one that doth not vse such bodily labour as is vnseemely for his calling? 26

18 Item, Whether is your Minister noted or to be reputed an incontinent person, a frequenter of Tauernes or Ale-houses, a common Gamester, or player at Dice: a common swearer or drunkard, or faulty in any other crime punishable by Ecclesiasticall censures, whereby hee is offensiue or scandalous to his function or Ministry? 27

19 Item, whether doth your Minister vse the forme of Thankesgiuing to women after their child-birth: and whether hath he admitted any thereto that was begotten with child in adultery or fornication, without Licence of his Ordinary; 20

20 Item, Whether hath your Minister receiued any Excommunication, Suspension, or aggrauation, from the Bishop of this Diocesse, or his Chancellor, or other their Deputies against any of his Parishioners, which he hath presumed to make stay of, and not published such excommu- 28

nication, suspension, excaggiauation the next Sunday or Holyday after the receit of the same, in time of diuine seruice in your Church or Chappell?

21 Item Whether doth your Minister vse in the Rogation weeke to perambulate about your parish and to admonish his parishioners to accompany him therein? 21

22 Item Whether hath your Minister Curat or Lecturer duely obserued the Kings instructions since the time that they haue beene published, and who hath beene faulty therein? 30

Concerning the Church, and the ornaments thereof.

FIrst, whether is your Church, or Chappells, with the Chancels thereof, with your Parsonage or Vicarage house, and all other building thereunto belonging, in good reparation, and decently and comely kept, both within and without; are your bels, and all things appertaining thereto in good reparation: and are the seates of your Church well maintained: if not, then through whose default, and what the defects are?

2 Item, Whether is your Churchyard well and sufficiently repaired, fenced, and maintained with walls, railes, or pales, according to the 85 Canon: if not, then through whose default any part is left vnrepaired, and at whose charge the same is to be repaired?

3 Item, whether haue you in your seuerall Churches or Chappels the Booke of Constitutions or Canons Ecclesiasticall ready to be read by the Minister, according to his Maiesties pleasure published by his Highnesse authority vnder the great Seale of England?

4 Item, whether haue you in your Church or chappell, the booke of common Prayer, the booke of Homilies, and a large Bible of the last Edition, a Font-stone, a decent Communion Table, with a seemely Carpet, and a cloth of fine linnen to couer the same at the Communion time, and is the table of Consanguinitie set vp in your Church?

5 Item, whether haue you in your Church or chappell one parchment Register-booke, prouided for christnings, marriages, and burials: and is the same duely and exactly kept, according to the Constitutions in that behalfe prouided: and haue the Church-wardens exhibited a Transcript thereof into the Registers office of this Diocesse every yeere since the last

Trienniall

Trienniall Visitation, as by the 70 Canon is required?

6 Item, Whether haue you a conuenient Seat for your Minister to read Seruice in, a comely Pulpit, with a decent Cloth or cushion and couer for the same; a comely large Surplice, a faire communion cup of siluer, with a couer agreeable for the same, and all other ornaments necessary for the celebration of diuine Seruice, and administration of the Sacraments?

7 Item, Whether haue you a strong Chest for the almes of the poore, with three locks and keyes, whereof the Minister is to keepe one key, and the Church-wardens the other, and another chest for the keeping of the ornaments of the Church and Register Booke?

8 Item, Whether haue you a terrier of all the glebe lands, and portions of tithe belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage: where and in whose custodie is it?

Articles concerning Parishioners.

FIrst, whether hath any Parishioner beene admitted to receiue the holy Communion, or to bee a Godfather or Godmother: or whether haue any beene married, who haue not beene first confirmed by the Bishop, and like notice be giuen to the Parishioners, that none shall hereafter bee married, except they doe first giue an accompt of their faith to the Parson, Vicar, or Curat, and make it probably appeare that they haue beene confirmed by the Bishop?

2 Item, Whether the Schoole-master or Schoole-masters within your parish be of good and sincere Religion (that is, of the Religion established in this Realme) life, and conuersation, and be diligent in teaching and bringing vp of youth: and whether they haue beene examined and licensed for Schoole-masters by the Lord Bishop of this Diocesse?

3 Item, Whether are there any in your Parish that doe not frequent diuine Seruice in their Parish Church, or that doe wilfully absent themselues from their owne Parish Church without any lawfull excuse, especially on Sundayes and holydayes, or are there any that being aboue the age of 16 yeeres, haue not receiued the holy Communion at or since Easter last?

4 Item Whether any such as haue not communicated, haue beene admitted to bee Godfathers or Godmothers, contrarie to the twentie ninth Canon?

5 Item Whether doe all fathers, mothers, maisters, and mistrisses cause their children, seruants, and apprentices to come to bee catechized on the Sundayes and Holy dayes before Euening Prayer, to heare the Word, and to bee instructed and taught in the Principles of Religion? and those that doe not their duelies herein, you shall present their names.

6 Item, Whether doe the parishioners frequent their Churches vpon Wednesdayes, Fridayes, and Holy-dayes Eues, and whether doe they keepe their fasting dayes, such as are appointed by the Church?

7 Item, Whether any of your Parishioners hauing a Preacher to their Parson, Vicar, or Curat, doe without iust cause, absent themselues from his sermons and wilfully resort to any other place to heare other Preachers, or refuse to receaue the Holy Communion at his hands? And whether any other Minister hath receiued to the Communion any of your Parish? and specifie the names both of the Minister and parishioner?

8 Item Whether there bee any of your Parishioners that sit and remaine in Tauernes or Alehouses, or in the streetes, or stand gazing in the Church yard vpon Sundayes and Holydayes in the time of diuine seruice or sermon: or whether there bee any Innekeeper or Alehousekeeper, that suffer or admit any to eate, drinke, play at dice, cards, or such like game in their houses vpon Sundayes or Holy dayes, in the time of diuine seruice or Sermon?

9 Item, Whether there bee any that brawle, raile, or fight in the Church or churchyard: or by their iangling, talking, walking, telling, or any other meanes hinder the Minister, or disquiet any present at diuine seruice or Sermon?

10 Item, Whether there be any who in their speech and outward carriage doe not esteeme and vse your Minister with all reuerence and respect due to the honour and dignitie of his place and calling?

11 Item, Whether there be any that doe worke, or keepe open shop for sale of wares, or doe labour about corne, hay, or any such businesse on any Sunday or Holyday?

12 Item,

12 Item, Whether haue you any in your Parish to your knowledge, or by common fame and report, which haue committed adultery, fornication, or incest, which haue not beene publikely punished: any bawds, or receiuers of incontinent persons into their houses, or any which doe conuey, or suffer them to goe away before they giue satisfaction to the Congregation in that behalfe?

13 Item Whether haue you any in your parish, which are by common fame and report, or vehement suspition, reputed and taken to bee common drunkards, blasphemers of Gods Holy Name, common and vsuall swearers, filthy speakers, railers, sowers of discord amongst their neighbours, vsurers, fighters, brawlers, or quarrellers in church or churchyard? you shall not faile to present their names.

14 Item Whether haue any in your Parish receiued or harboured any woman with child, that was not before an householder in your Parish, or gotten with child out of wedlock, and suffered her to depart againe without punishment, first inflicted by the Ordinary: you shall present as well the partie harbouring as harboured; and who is suspected to bee the father of the child? and who hath helped to conuey her away?

15 Item, What Midwiues haue you within your Parish, of what skill are they accounted of for that office, and whether are they licensed by their Ordinary to execute the same?

16 Item, Whether haue you in your Parish any that practise physicke or surgerie, or what skill are they reputed to haue for their profession; and whether doe they practise without a particular Licence from the Bishop of this Diocese?

17 Item, Whether do you know of any that doe teach or keepe Schoole, not hauing a Licence from the Ordinary: or whether any doe associate, or serue a Cure without Licence, according to the 77. Canon?

18 Item, Whether haue you a fit Parish Clerke, aged twenty yeeres at least of honest conuersation, and sufficient for reading and writing: and whether he be paid his wages without fraud, according to the ancient custome of your Parish: and whether is your said Clerke approued by the Ordinarie?

19 Item, Whether are there in your Parish, any wills not yet proued, or goods of the dead dying intestate, left vnadministred by authority

of the Ordinarie in that behalfe: and whether any possesse the goods of any person deceased, without authority from the Ordinary? You shall not faile to present the Executor, and all other culpable therein.

20 Item, Whether is there any Legacy giuen to the Church, or to other good and Godly vses, as releife of the poore, Orphans, poore Scholiers, poore Maidens marriages, Schooles, high-wayes, and such like, which is not yet performed? If there be any such, you shall present what you know or can learne thereof, and by whose default the same is not performed?

21 Item, Whether haue the former churchwardens beene carefull and faithfull in the execution of their office, and haue they made a iust account at the end of their yeere, according to the 89 Canon?

22 Item, Whether haue any of your Parish dying excommunicate, or wilfully destroying himselfe, beene buried in christian buriall in your Church or Church-yard, and what were their names so buried, and who were present at such burialls?

23 Item, Whether any in your Parish hath or doth refuse to contribute towards the reparation of the Church, and to the prouision of such things as belong thereunto?

24 Lastly, Doe you knowe of any other matter of Ecclesiasticall cognizance, worthy the presentment in your iudgment, which you hold fit to be reformed by Ecclesiasticall censure? you shall likewise present the same by vertue of your Oathes aforesaid.

Articles concerning Ecclesiasticall Offices.

1 Whether doe you knowe or haue heard, that the Chauncellor Archdeacon officiall, or other inferiour officers Ecclesiasticall, haue at any time wincked at and suffered any faults punishable by Ecclesiasticall censure, and presented vnto them to passe and remaine vnpunished, for money, bribes, friendship or other partiall respect.

2 Whether doe you knowe or haue heard that the Chauncellor Archdeacon, Officiall, or other vnder officers belonging to them, haue received any payment or composition, for suppressing any presentment, excommunication or other Ecclesiasticall censure against any offenders, or for not sey-

ing

ving a Proces without a summe of money promised or received.

3 Whether doth the Chauncellor Archdeacon, or any their substitutes heare any matter privately in their chambers, which ought not to be dispatched, otherwise then in open Court, or in the presence of the sworne Register or his deputy.

4 Whether hath any Chauncellor Archdeacon or their deputies, or any Register, Apparitor, or under officer exacted extraordinary or greater Fees then heretofore of late have bin accustomed, or are warrantable, according to the table of the rates of Fees belonging to the Court.

5 Whether doth the Archdeacon or his Officiall or substitute call for presentments, and exact them at any other time or times, then in the time of his visitation, or doth the Archdeacon or his substitute under pretence to haue the presentments given in at his visitation corrected and amended, draw in other matters which happen afterward into his cognizance to to the preiudice of the Bishop and his Chauncellor.

6 What number of Apparitors hath every severall Ecclesiasticall Judge, and in what manner is the Country grieved, and overburthened by the said Apparitors.

FINIS.